



IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 15, 16, and 18 as follows:

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15. (Twice Amended) An optical amplifier comprising:
an input terminal receiving an optical input signal;
an optical coupler dividing the optical input signal into a first optical signal and a second optical signal;
an optical filter operatively connected to the optical coupler for passing the first optical input signal, and for ascertaining a level of the optical input signal through a detector; said detector being operatively connected to the optical filter for receiving the first optical signal passed through the optical filter to detect the level of the optical input signal; and
an optical fiber amplifier operatively connected to the optical coupler for amplifying the second optical signal with excitation by an exciting light.

16. (Twice Amended) An optical amplifier comprising:
an input terminal receiving an optical input signal;
an optical coupler dividing the optical input signal into a first optical signal and a second optical signal;
an optical filter operatively connected to the optical coupler for passing the first optical signal, blocking an exciting light, which exists along with the first optical signal, and for ascertaining a level of the optical input signal through a detector; said detector being operatively connected to the optical filter for receiving the first optical signal passed through the optical filter to detect the level of the optical input signal; and